
STATE OF INDIANA



Distressed Unit Appeals Board Meeting Minutes January 5, 2009

Call to Order: The meeting of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board (DUAB) was held on Monday, January 5, 2009 from 10:10 AM – 5:59 PM. The meeting was held at One North Capital, 9th Floor Conference Room, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Board members in attendance were Kyle Babcock, Dan Clark, Mark GiaQuinta, Bruce Hartman, Ryan Kitchell, Chris Ruhl, Tim Rushenberg, and Paul Wyman.

Discussion: Mr. Kitchell began the meeting by noting compliance with the Indiana Open Door Law. He then introduced a new member, Timothy J. Rushenberg, newly appointed DLGF Commissioner. In addition, he mentioned the appointment of another member who would join the group at some point during the day's proceedings. Mr. Kitchell also announced the resignation of Mark Dobson, a DUAB member, as St. Joseph County Commissioner, which explained his absence from the hearing. Mr. Kitchell also noted that the Association of Indiana Counties is working to find a replacement for Mr. Dobson.

Minutes: Mr. Kitchell submitted the minutes for approval.

Motion: Mr. Wyman made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Babcock seconded, and the motion carried by a vote of 7-0. Mr. GiaQuinta had not yet joined the proceedings.

Further Discussion: Mr. Kitchell continued with an explanation of the day's proceedings stating that of the 2,600 units in the State, only three submitted petitions to the DUAB. Mr. Kitchell stated that the petitions would be heard in the order they were received.

Mr. Kitchell explained that Monroe City was the first to submit their petition, but after talking to them they decided they are not a distressed unit and withdrew their petition.

Mr. Kitchell then called for the next unit to submit their petition which was Beech Grove Public Library.

Beech Grove Public Library *Marion County*

Discussion: Ms. Burns, Director of the Beech Grove Public Library, provided an overview of the library district and then explained the library district's petition for relief from the DUAB. Ms. Burns then fielded questions from DUAB members about the library district's petition, existing operations, and future plans.

Mr. Louis Mahern testified against the library district's petition, and field questions from DUAB members.

Mr. Kitchell stated that the DUAB would complete their review of the petition and the circumstances surrounding it, have a final board meeting, and then take motions.

The City of Gary

Lake County

Discussion: Rudy Clay, mayor of Gary, and Celita Green, Gary controller, provided an overview of the city's operations and then explained the city's petition for relief from the DUAB. Mayor Clay and Controller Green fielded questions from DUAB members about the city's petition, existing operations, and future plans.

Mr. Karl Cender testified in favor of the city's petition.

Ms. Hunter, Director of Community Development for Gary, provided an overview of her agency's operations and fielded questions from DUAB members.

Mr. Allen, Vice President of Gary City Council, testified in support of the city's petition and fielded questions from DUAB members.

Ms. Brown, the City Council's Finance Committee Chair, testified in support of the city's petition and fielded questions from DUAB members.

Roy Dominguez, Lake County Sheriff, testified in support of the city's petition.

Reverend Dwight Gardner testified in support of the city's petition.

Mr. Joel Rodriguez, Director of Economic Development, provided an overview of his agency's operations and fielded questions from DUAB members.

Mr. Jim Nowacki testified in opposition to the city's petition.

Mr. Robinson, Union President for the Gary Fire Department and Mr. A. Friday of the Gary Fire Department, testified in support of the city's petition.

Mr. Nat McKnight testified in opposition to the city's petition.

Ms. Suzette Raggs, Gary's City Clerk, testified in support of the city's petition.

Mr. Jewell Harris Jr., Attorney with the City Clerk, testified concerning the city's jail and courts, and fielded questions from DUAB members.

Mr. Thomas Eaton testified in opposition to the city's petition.

Mr. John Vincent testified and fielded questions from DUAB members.

Mr. Gene Ayers testified.

Mr. George Rogge, as a representative of Miller Business, testified and fielded questions from DUAB members.

Mr. Douglass Grimes testified.

Lake County Sheriff Dominguez once again testified and fielded questions from DUAB members concerning public safety.

Ms. Lettie Oliver of AFSCME testified in support of the city's petition.

Mr. Andy Young testified.

Judge Deidre Monroe testified in support of the city's petition.

Ms. Shirley Stanford, Gary City Council member, testified in support of the city's petition.

Mr. Chris Curry, Director of the Gary-Chicago International Airport Authority, and Nikki Thorne, Financial Manager for the Gary-Chicago International Airport Authority, provided an overview of the airport's operations and then explained the airport's petition for relief from the DUAB. Director Curry and Financial Manager Thorne fielded questions from DUAB members about the airport's petition, existing operations, and future plans.

Karl Cender, Luci Horton (Director of Gary Sanitary District) and Vern Webbs (Deputy Director and Finance Manager of Gary Sanitary District) provided an overview of the sanitary district's operations and then explained the sanitary district's petition for relief from the DUAB. Cender, Director Horton, and Deputy Director Webbs fielded questions from DUAB members about the sanitary district's petition, existing operations, and future plans.

Gary Public Transportation (GPT) Controller David Jenkins provided an overview of GPT's operations and then explained GPT's petition for relief from the DUAB. Controller Jenkins fielded questions from DUAB members about GPT's petition, existing operations and future plans.

David Wright, GPT's Director of Planning and Marketing, also testified in favor of GPT's petition.

Mr. William Sheldrake, President of Policy Analytics, testified to address an earlier comment made by Mr. Nowacki.

Mr. Kitchell explained the procedures for follow-up and future meetings.

Motion: Mr. Rushenberg moved to adjourn. Mr. Wyman seconded, and the board unanimously approved by voice vote.